

FORWARD NEW RICHMOND

June 19, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Summer Seidenkranz called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken.

Members present: Summer Seidenkranz, Heather McAbee, Karl Skoglund, Mike Montello, Tom Mews, Rob Kreibich.

Others present: Scott Morrisette (City of River Falls Alderperson), Beth Thompson, Mike Darrow, Lori Brinkman, Tom Weinmeyer, Jim Zajkowski, Craig Kittel

Karl Skoglund moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Heather McAbee and carried.

Tom Mews moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting dated May 15, 2019, seconded by Heather McAbee and carried.

Transition of Chair/Vice Chair Positions

Beth Thompson thanked Summer Seidenkranz for her hard work and dedication as Forward New Richmond's Chairperson over the past year. Summer appreciated the opportunity to serve as Chair. Summer then turned the meeting over to the new Chairperson, Heather McAbee.

Housing Study Discussion

At the May FNR meeting, FNR members discussed a possible housing study for New Richmond. At that meeting, Heather McAbee stated she would reach out to City of River Falls Alderperson, Scott Morrisette, as they recently completed a housing study and could offer feedback on the process from their perspective. Scott outlined the findings of their study. He stated there was value in the study from his perspective. He said the study reinforced City staff's theories about where their needs were greatest. Scott also explained the study has created confidence in their developers/builders as they can prove that the need is there for more housing. Discussion followed. Tom Mews sees value in inviting townships to participate in a discussion about a housing study. This topic will be on the August FNR agenda (there is no July meeting).

No action needed at this time.

TIF 6 Sign (Richmond Crossing)

Mike Darrow explained there were no responses to the Request for Proposals for the Richmond Crossing sign. Discussion by FNR members took place. We will take a look at this again in the future; no action will be taken at this time.

RECon Update

Beth Thompson and Summer Seidenkranz attended RECon in May. There were 34,000 attendees, 1,037 exhibitors, and 2 million square feet of exhibit space. Beth and Summer spoke with over 100 company representatives and have over 30 contacts they will continue to follow-up with. Beth and Summer expressed that good connections were made.

Economic Development Mid-Year Updates

Beth went over the numbers of building permits issued, new dwelling units, etc. to date in 2019. There has been over \$11 million in residential construction this year and over \$2.3 million in commercial/industrial construction this year. There are currently 450 City lots available for building.

Interviews will be held on June 26 with three firms for potential downtown development. Mike Darrow explained we'd like to have two Forward New Richmond members attending the interviews. The City is anticipating a decision by the end of August.

Closed Session

Mike Montello moved to go into Closed Session by State Statute 19.85 (1)(e), seconded by Summer Seidenkranz, and carried.

Open Session

No action on Closed Session item.

Communications/Miscellaneous

- There will not be a July FNR meeting.
- Staff is looking into the possibility of meeting at Philips Medisize for the August FNR meeting.
- Heather would like the good communication flow from the first year of the Forward New Richmond Committee to continue throughout the next year.
- Tom Mews asked what the minimum setbacks are along the downtown corridor; Beth explained there are no minimum setbacks and there is a maximum building height of four stories.

Mike Montello moved to adjourn, seconded by Summer Seidenkranz and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lori Brinkman.